



(Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

## Here, catch!

Working together, Soldiers with the 3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div., pass sandbags to each other to create supplementary fighting positions next to the Grey Wolf Leadership Academy Jan. 26. See page 3 for story.

# Yusufiyah citizens get potable water

By Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie  
2-10 Mtn. Public Affairs

YUSUFİYAH, Iraq - In most communities it is common to have clean water available to drink and for recreational use. Often one can go through a neighborhood on any given day in the summer and see people watering their plants, washing their cars or playing in the sprinkler - all of

which require running water.

But in Yusufiyah, Iraq citizens are lucky if they have enough water to survive a hot, summer day.

Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) teamed up with Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) to

assist the people of Yuufiyah in repairing water pipes Jan. 23.

"The city services and the water minister asked for assistance in breaking the concrete above the pipes since they do not have a jack hammer," said Capt. Chris Sanchez, a native of Los Angeles, Calif., who serves as the 4-31 civil affairs officer. "The people of Yusufiyah are served well by civil servants like the water

minister."

In order to help repair the pipes holes had to be made in the concrete.

"We are making four holes in the ground so that the water can be tested to see if it is potable," said Pfc. Shawn Armstrong, a 2nd BSTB heavy equipment operator and native of Lewistown, Penn. "So far

See Water Page 2

# One step closer to clean water in every home

## Water

From Page 1

the mission has been great. It is good to help people and show them what we can do for them."

As the BSTB Soldiers drilled holes in the ground, the 4-31 Soldiers and Iraqi Army soldiers from the 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division secured the area.

"The Iraqi Army led the way and coordinated the security and worked with the residents to accomplish the mission," Sanchez said.

City officials were please with the project, help the community.

"The sewer system is very old and it is a priority to reinstall it," said Bilal Abdul Kareem Mohammed, the Yusufiyah Minister of Water. "I am happy to help my people, but they need to be healthy. Being healthy includes having potable water."

As the team worked to drill holes in the ground, residents



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie 2-10 Mtn. Public Affairs)

**Loretto, Pa., native Sgt. Adam McDermott, a heavy equipment operator with the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), drills holes into the cement in Yusufiyah, Iraq Jan. 23 in order to get to water lines as local Iraqi children watch. McDermott participated in an operation designed to help the residents of Yusufiyah get potable water within their homes.**

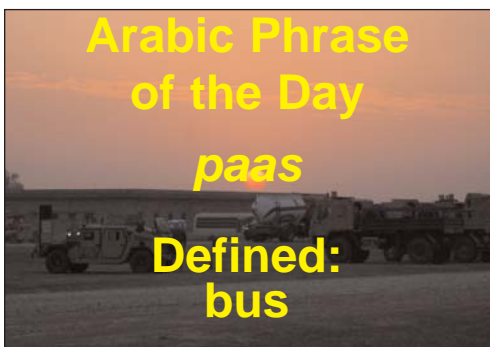
and Iraqi children gathered to watch. As the people stood around, one mother showed the Soldiers scars that were on her daughter's body from an improvised explosive device detonation. The small girl only had four fingers, as well - also from




the IED blast.

"At one time the people of Yusufiyah could not come out to the streets because of the terrorists," Mohammed said. "That is why it took so long to get the water pipes fixed. Yusufiyah's area is secure

enough to be able to do projects like this."

Mohammed said the long-term plan was to build a water plant. When all the projects are complete the citizens should have potable water in their homes.



Iraq 3-Day Weather Report			
	Today	Tomorrow	Saturday
High: 62 Low: 50	High: 62 Low: 37	High: 60 Low: 43	

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# 'Grey Wolf Leadership Academy' to open soon

By Pfc. Ben Fox  
3-1 Cav. Public Affairs

BAQUBAH, Iraq - Soldiers worked for days on end, filling sandbags, constructing fighting positions, placing concertina wire and setting up camouflaged netting.

Oddly, the position being fortified is not expected to come under attack. Instead, the building is going to be used as a leadership academy for Iraqi security forces.

The "Grey Wolf Leadership Academy" is located at Forward Operating Base Gabe and is scheduled to begin classes for coalition force Soldiers, Iraqi Army Soldiers and Iraqi Police, Feb. 11. The course will last seven days with a graduation ceremony on the eighth day.

"It is going to entail focus on leadership development," said Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Felt, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division command sergeant major, who is in charge of creating the academy.

The course will involve classes on all

seven days, including NCO responsibilities and duties, and leadership principals on the first day.

The purpose of the classes is "to facilitate professional development of the IA and IP NCO Corps," said Felt.

On the second day, the students will learn Army values and general orders.

So that the ISF can be better trusted by those they serve, Felt said the instructors will teach values and ethics the United States Army is known for.

The third day turns more hands on as the students learn weapons familiarization, marksmanship and reflexive fire.

Staff Sgt. James Evans, native to Tuscan, Ariz., will primarily be in charge of conducting the firing ranges at the academy, which he was previously doing for U.S. Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

The marksmanship range will consist of firing ten rounds in three positions -- standing, kneeling and prone -- so that in all, 30 shots are fired, said Evans.

The buddy team fire will have four different cover and concealment elements, two running lanes, and the final element will fit the entire team so they can all engage the target together, said Evans.

Day five involves more complicated leadership responsibilities such as rules of engagement, fire commands and reporting.

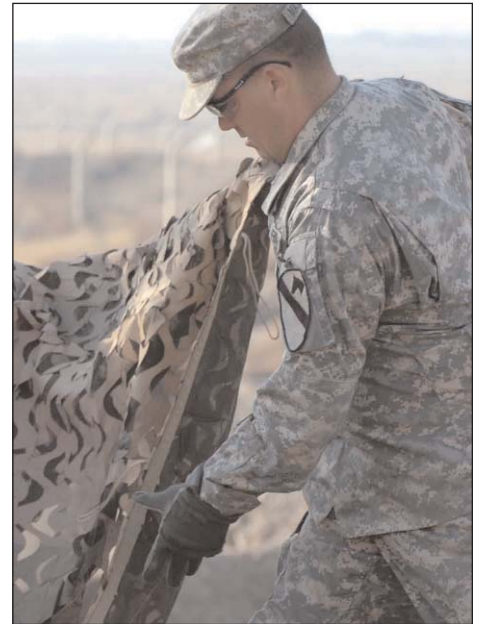
On day six, medical training will be the focus, as well as an obstacle course aimed to improve battle focused physical training.

The obstacle course includes logs to jump over, tires to run through, wire to crawl under and a balance beam to cross.

The last day of training emphasizes defense and how to maintain and create defensive positions.

"(This will) teach them how to sustain their fire and stay in the fight," said Staff Sgt. Jeff Young, native to Lockhart, Texas. Young is in charge of teaching defense and holding defensive positions.

All of the courses are similar to courses American Soldiers go through, but the visual aids have been translated into Arabic so the students can see visually what they hear from the Soldiers through interpreters,



(Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox, 3-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

**Spc. Rodney Macomber, 3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div., sets up camouflaged netting for a fighting position at the Grey Wolf Leadership Academy.**

said Young.

"The ultimate goal is to train Iraqis so they can defend," said Evans. "Teach them to hold in place and defend."

This is all ties into the main mission of coalition forces in Iraq, which is to hand over security to the Iraqis.

"Our exit strategy depends on Iraqi security forces being able to provide security," said Felt. "Anything we do to build ISF capabilities is important."

Young also said he hopes the academy will help (ISF) defeat their enemies without us. If they become more self-sustainable and less reliable on us, it has to help, said Young.

To prove the academy's worth, graduation day will be different than most. The students will show what they learned from the previous week when their academy comes under a mock attack.

"Our graduation exercise is a live fire defense of the academy itself," said Felt. The Iraqi leadership will see their Soldiers conducting a complicated defense of the academy. Hopefully it will provoke a reaction, and the VIPs will ask, "How did they train them to do this in seven days?"

## Baghdad in Brief

### Iraqi soldiers detain suspected terrorists

LUTIFIYAH, Iraq - Iraqi soldiers detained eight suspected terrorists at the Karch Oil Facility located just northeast of Lutifiyah, Iraq Jan. 28.

After responding to small arms fire in the vicinity of the oil facility, troops from 1st Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division conducted a search.

They discovered eight Iraqi men with illegal weapons. All eight men were detained.

One Iraqi Army soldier was slightly wounded in the incident.

The eight men are being held for further questioning.

# Chuck Norris raises the morale of deployed Soldiers

By Spc. Ryan Stroud  
3-1 Cav. Public Affairs

BAQUBAH, Iraq - Chuck Norris quotes have traveled all over the internet, radio stations and television, lifting the spirits of many people and making them laugh. But the 3rd "Grey Wolf" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division has taken the quotes to a new level, posting quotes on bulletin boards, hanging them on the work station walls and other areas of operation, all to boost morale of the Soldiers partaking in Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

Though the fad started in the U.S., two Soldiers from Grey Wolf brought the fun spirit of Chuck Norris quotes to Iraq.

Chuck Norris quotes quickly spread throughout the Diyala region, giving the Soldiers something to laugh about in a sometimes dismal situation.

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Adkinson, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6-9 Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, and Sgt. Daniel Lewis, HHT, 3rd BCT, are considered to be the ringleaders of the "Chuck Norris Movement in Iraq." These two Soldiers have made it their personal mission to get the quotes out to the Soldiers and to bring joy to their lives.

"The whole thing about Chuck Norris is he is a legend and a hero," said Adkinson. "We idolize him here at [Forward Operating Base] Normandy, probably more than any other FOB."

"Chuck is a legend and the American people need a legend to look up to. Other than the

American Soldier, who better than Chuck Norris?" added the Sacramento, Calif. native.

"He is the icon for invincibility," said Lewis. "I try to boost morale for Soldiers everyday. I'll do anything to help a Soldier out. If Chuck quotes can get it done, that's what I'll do."

Both Lewis and Adkinson started "spreading the work of Chuck" in different ways -- Lewis posted the "Chuck Quote of the Day" on his office's bulletin board while Adkinson would print out photos of Chuck to give to Soldiers. Even meetings would, at times, start off with a Chuck quote to lighten the mood.

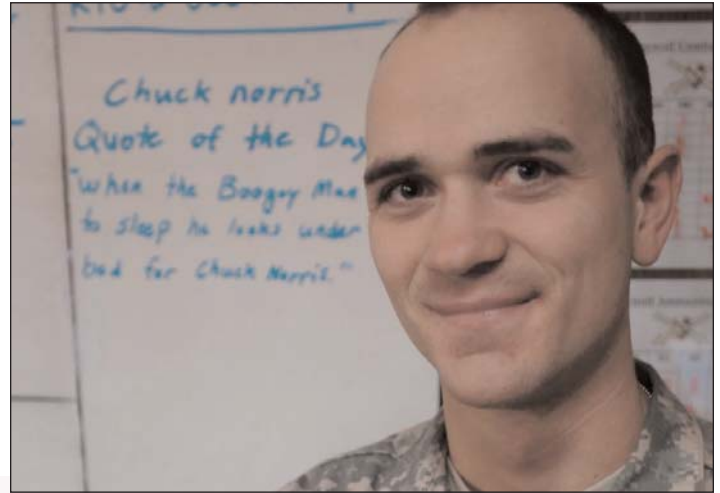
"We started doing Chuck Norris quotes on our board, and everyday Soldiers would come into [work] and get a good laugh at it," said Lewis, a native of Salt Lake City. "It helps you forget about being away from your families and being in combat."

"The 'Chuck Norris Quotes' do boost morale here on the FOB," added Adkinson. "Chuck remains in our minds at all times." And keeping morale up is something these Soldiers don't take lightly.

"Chuck has managed to keep us in high spirits and I think that one of the reasons people like the 'Chuck Quotes' so much," he said.

"I think he's a humble guy," added Lewis. "He doesn't think he's better than you or me. I think he would be happy that Soldier morale is staying up because of quotes about him."

Norris, who was in the U.S. Air Force, is a famous actor who appeared in movies and television. He also is an



(Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud, 3-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

**Sgt. Daniel Lewis, stands in front of his white board where Chuck Norris quotes are posted daily.**

accomplished martial artist, helping him land many of his roles in entertainment. His previous time spent in the military gives him even more respect from the Soldiers who spread the quotes, said Lewis.

"We do respect Chuck even more because he was a warrior like us and has even come to Iraq to visit with Soldiers," he said. "I think that adds more fun and honor to the quotes."

"As a young boy, I grew up aspiring to be like Chuck Norris," Adkinson said. "Through joining the military and defending our country, I think I have been able to do the best I can at [being like him]."

Though both Soldiers have read and posted many of the quotes, they feel some of these are the best to gain a laugh.

"If Chuck Norris is running late, time better slow down," said Adkinson.

"While children check under their bed for the Boogie Man, the Boogie Man checks under his bed for Chuck Norris," Lewis added.

"Chuck Norris has actually

been dead for ten years now but the Grim Reaper was just too scared to tell him," said Adkinson.

Adkinson and Lewis also said they wanted to set the record straight about the "Chuck Norris - Bruce Lee Battle" in "Enter the Dragon."

"My favorite Chuck movie would be 'Enter the Dragon,' even though it is a falsity," said Adkinson. "Everyone knows, in real life, Chuck would dominate Bruce Lee."

"From what I understand, Chuck Norris let Bruce Lee win because it was a movie," added Lewis. "Chuck was just helping a friend out."

Chuck Norris is a legend in the eyes of many Soldiers from surrounding FOBs because of the presence he has been given. Lewis and Adkinson hope Soldiers take his positive examples and the quotes to heart.

"Everywhere I go I try to make my presence legendary," said Lewis. "I think all Soldiers should. Chuck Norris quotes are a positive example of making yourself legendary."



# Aviation unit recognized for historic air assault

By Sgt. Robert Strain  
1st ACB Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - The 1st Air Cavalry Brigade's 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment was recognized Jan. 26 at Camp Victory, Iraq, for the unit's effort and accomplishment during a historic air assault mission in November.

Lt. Col. Michael Shenk, the 3-227th's commander, accepted a plaque on behalf of the "Spearhead" Soldiers from Col. Michael Kershaw, the commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division "Commandos," at the 2/10 headquarters here.

The air assault, which occurred on Nov. 14, exactly 41 years after the troopers of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment were brought in to Vietnam's Ia Drang Valley by UH-1 Iroquois helicopters, allowed the Commando Soldiers to get to their mission objective quickly and safely.

The air assault was also special to the Soldiers of the 3-227th, because it was the first air assault completed by the newly formed unit, which was activated several months before the brigade's deployment.

It was the second air assault for the Soldiers of the 2/10 and was special to their Soldiers because the area they assaulted into in southwest Baghdad was a high risk area, and most aviation units didn't want to fly there, according to Maj. Rob Griggs, who was the 2/10's air assault task force

commander.

Griggs said the success of the operation sent the message to the enemy that American Soldiers could go anywhere, using any means.

Shenk recognized the selfless efforts of retired Lt. Col. Bruce Crandall, who led Company A, 229th Aviation Battalion into the Ia Drang Valley 41 years before, for

setting the example of what a helicopter pilot can do for the Soldiers on the ground by bringing water and ammunition while taking wounded Soldiers off the battlefield for treatment.

"We hope to live up to half of what [Crandall] did, and we hope to live up to the high Commando standard, and we'll keep working," Shenk said.



(Photo by Sgt. Robert Strain, 1st ACB Public Affairs)

Colonel Michael Kershaw, the commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, presents a plaque to Lt. Col. Michael Shenk, the commander of the 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Jan. 26 at Camp Victory, Iraq. The 3-227th conducted their first air assault since activation Nov. 14.

## TELEVISION



8:00p.m.

8:30p.m.

9:00p.m.

9:30p.m.

10:00p.m.

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